

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, June 16, 2014, 4:30pm, at the Lilly Nature Center. Present at said meeting were Pat Flannelly, Karen Springer, John MacDonald, Jeff Love, Aimee Jacobsen and Andy Gutwein. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Lee Booth, Bess Witcosky, Dan Dunten and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Also present was Council President, Ann Hunt. Karen convened the Board at 4:37pm.

The first item of the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the May, 2014 meeting. John motioned to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report had been distributed
- Received a nice thank you letter, along with a \$300.00 check from Blackbird Homeowner's Association for service work pertaining to the Ash trees.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Most of the time slots for entertainment at Global Fest have been filled. I still need to fill the 7:00pm and 8:00pm time slot on the inside stage. We have a mariachi band this year, and someone that will perform Native American music. The Naturalization Ceremony is going to be held at Burtsfield, so we are going to see if the EMT food truck will be available since there are no food establishments within walking distance.
- Tomorrow, at the Board of Works meeting, quote will be opened for Construction Document Services for ADA Compliance work to be done in our parks.
- I have also been working on our ADA Self-Evaluations and trying to put all of our Priority One items together. Tim Clark, the City's Facilities and IT Director, has come up with cost estimates. I will be working with Lee to come up with a time frame on when things will be complete.
- We have had to drop a Men's and Coed team from our leagues. They were not able to get enough players to show up for their games, and were having to forfeit their games.

Parks – Lee reported on the following:

- Inspections are available
- Staff has been busy catching up on the mowing, string trimming and other grounds maintenance
- Hazardous limbs and a tree were removed at Lincoln Park, along with a few limbs removed at Morton
- Due to the deteriorating condition, and lack of use, the backstop near Shelter # 4 in Happy Hollow Park has been removed

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- Four summer sports camps were completed. Varsity coaches of the West Lafayette School Corporation's facilities offer the sports camps.
- 52 girls participated in Coach Jane Schott's girls' basketball camp. (2013=70)
- 88 boys registered for Coach Dave Wood's basketball weeklong camp. Both weeklong basketball camps were offered June 2-6. (2013=109)
- 50 girls and boys registered for Coach Aaron Blessing's soccer camps. (2013=42)
- 37 girls enrolled in Coach Chad Marshall's volleyball camp. (2013=54)

Thanks to W.L. Athletic Director, Brock Touloukian, for working with the coaches to get the camps scheduled around gym maintenance.

- The tennis program is underway. The tennis coordinator is Tim Wright, the West Lafayette Varsity Tennis coach. Tennis lessons are offered at both the West Lafayette Varsity Courts at Cumberland School and the Happy Hollow Courts.
- The Municipal Pool opened May 23 for the season. Opening day is the Annual Splash Bash with a special \$1.00 admission. 105 swimmers came to celebrate opening day.
- The swim lesson program began on June 2. Four – two-week sessions are offered at the Municipal Pool. Today was the start for the second session of swim lessons. The swim lesson program is a very popular program. All registrations for lessons are now done at the pool.
- Diving lessons are also offered at the Municipal Pool. The diving program also offers four – two-week sessions.

The two Playground programs at Cumberland School and the Burtfield gym have filled for both sessions. Both have waiting lists. The School maintenance staff has been very helpful allowing the program in the school facilities.

Morton Center – Bess reported on the following:

- Camps are going amazing. We are at capacity, extending capacity and adding new sessions.
- Morton Music is starting to take off. Keyboarding is full for the rest of the summer, so we have added two new sessions. Guitar booked 8 of 12 lessons for session 2. We have added three private voice students.
- Fall proposals are coming in and due June 23. We lost a yoga teacher, and we will be adding a new one for fall. I am interviewing a new instructor that may offer knitting.
- Morton had a booth at the Farmers Market on May 28. Four of our instructors came out. It was a good opportunity to talk to old and new patrons, hand out brochures and information. Even though there was bad weather, we had quite a few interested people at the table. I had a community art project on hand where folks could color their own butterfly. It was very fun! The butterflies are now on display in Morton's first floor display case.

Stewardship – Dan reported on the following:

- Artwork on the walls is here from our MindBOGgling event last month and will be up until July 13. The items are by local artists, and are made out of natural fibers.
- Eagle Scout Projects – two scouts are working on projects this summer:
 - Michael Kern – will mulch the savanna trail at the Nature Area using free wood chips from Bellinger's when they remove trees. He is also building a bench, similar to the other benches, and the bench will be placed along a trail near the water.
 - Jack Folkers – will be re-landscaping the southeast corner, located outside the Morton Community Center.

Old Business**Northwestern Heights Proposal**

- Ann Hunt, 1149 Hillcrest, liaison between the Executive Committee for the Northwestern Heights Association and this group, wanted to add a couple of items not previously discussed in the presentation. The first item is in reference to the Ash tree issue. On Summit, there are thirty-eight Ash trees, six of them have been treated or taken down, with John MacDonald adding they were most likely taken down. In a few years when those Ash trees die, or they are taken down, the street will mostly be sun as opposed to the canopy street that it is now, so the area in discussion would be a nice place to get off the street.

Pat arrived a little late and requested a summary of the proposal be added for the record, at which Joe recapped. Joe summarized by saying the Northwestern Heights Neighborhood Association would like to have a couple of benches and a safer, more aesthetically pleasing, western half of the Garden St. right-of-way between Summit and Northwestern. Originally, they would have liked to have a small playground in there but there was not enough space without clear-cutting a nice little bit of woods along the 8-ft wide sidewalk. The sidewalk was installed some time ago, assuming by the City, to assist students with getting to Northwestern Ave., and a crossing guard to continue to school, to Burtfield School. The minimum request is for a couple of benches and a place to rest when walking the neighborhood. There are no sidewalks in the neighborhood, and fortunately, it is a low-traffic volume neighborhood for people walking along the streets. Joe noted, from the letters submitted and received with the Park Board minutes, there are people in the neighborhood that do not want anything there. Andy noted it would be appropriate to entertain a motion for the Park Board to move forward with the legalities of the title, as needed, and installation and maintenance of the improvements mentioned. Joe noted that is one option, or the Board could decide to do nothing to help the Neighborhood Association improve the site, or option 3 would be to make it a park.

- Etta Mae Curtis, 1624 Sheridan, provided some history of the area since they have lived in the neighborhood for some time. She noted there was a post at one time near Summit, so that cars could not drive on the wide lane, but for some reason, it was removed. Vehicles are using the lane, as if it is a drive; noting if nothing else, she would like to have a post reinstalled. She offered several suggestions for the area, noting she is completely in favor of the park.

Discussion followed. Karen motioned for the Parks Department to proceed in working with the Northwestern Heights Neighborhood Association to make the western half of Garden St. safer, more aesthetically pleasing, perhaps by adding a couple of benches, hinging on the fact that financing for this project will come from the Redevelopment Commission. Site maintenance could be rolled in with the maintenance contract currently existing for areas that are not park property, and that this area is not to be designated as an official park. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

New Business

Pony League Proposal

Jim Boyle, 3145 Covington St., presented a proposal to improve the Pony League's field, for 13-14 year olds baseball, in Cumberland Park. He is requesting to have permanent fencing installed. Joe noted a past Park Board declined a permanent fencing structure, so this Board would have to change the vote. Discussion followed.

Aimee motioned the Park Board is in support of allowing the construction of a permanent fence for the Pony League to make further improvements in the area. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Memorial Plaque for Cumberland Park

Joe presented a request, on behalf of the Master Gardeners, to place a memorial plaque on a designated rock in the Master Gardeners planting area outside the fence of the South softball field, honoring the late Denise Dorsey-Zinn and her contributions to the community as a Market Master for the Farmers Market. Discussion followed. Aimee motioned to approve the memorial plaque for Denise Dorsey-Zinn as presented. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported the following:

- Congratulations to three High School Music groups:
 - Both the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra qualified for the State Organizational Contest and came in 15th and 8th place respectively. They were competing against all other high schools in the state, regardless of size.
 - The High School Choral Department received the IN State School Music Association All-Music Award for 2013-14, one of twenty-three awarded in the state.
- The West Lafayette Music Boosters Ice Cream Social/Student Concerts will be held Tuesday, June 24 from 6-9pm in the Jr. High Gym at the High School.

Wabash River

- Joe attended the meeting. The Scenic Byway Management Plan has been completed and runs from I-65 to Ross Hills Park.
- Riverfest will be held July 12 in Tapawingo Park.

Other

Art in Bloom

Ann Hunt presented information regarding Art in Bloom on June 28, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Pool Cash/Change Fund Request

Chris presented a request to increase the Pool's Cash/Change Fund by \$50.00, increasing the fund overall to \$200.00. The increase is to accommodate two POS computers (computers replaced the one cash register from years past) added to the pool this year. Karen motioned to approve the increase as presented. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pay Claims

Jeff motioned for claims to be paid. Aimee seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Karen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Aimee seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:39pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary

File: Cheryl/2014 Park Board Minutes/Minutes#06/June2014